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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS, IR

SUBJECT: ICCS LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

REF: TEHRAN 6010

1. MOST ICCS DELEGATIONS MEMBERS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM ARE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILY MEMBERS. CANDEL HAD A FEW WIVES PRESENT IN SAIGON, SOME FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME. FAMILY SEPARATION IS ONE OF REASONS ICCS DECIDED UPON SIX-MONTH ROTATION POLICY FOR DELEGATIONS. WHILE HUNGARIANS HAVE INDICATED AVERAGE TOUR OF DUTY MEMBERS OF THEIR DELEGATION WILL BE SOMEWHAT LONGER THAN SIX MONTHS, INDONESIAN DELEGATION ALMOST COMPLETELY ROTATED IN AUGUST AND POLISH DELEGATION ABOUT TO BEGIN. FAMILY TRAVEL IS NOT CONTEMPLATED IN ICCS BUDGET. IF FEW MEMBERS IRDEL WISH TO BRING FAMILY, IRDEL OR INDIVIDUALS WILL HAVE TO BEAR COSTS OF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS. WHILE LATTER AVAILABLE AT COMMERCIAL RATES IN SJGON, FAMILY TRAVEL NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PORTION OF DELEGATION ASSIGNED OUTSIDE SAIGON.

2. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: IN SAIGON MOST CIVILIAN MEMBERS LIVE IN HOTELS. FORMER POLISH AMBASSADOR OCCUPIED OLD ICC VILLA AS DID CANADIAN AMBASSADOR. INDONESIAN AMBASSADORS HAVE RENTED NEW VILLAS. MILITARY OFFICERS ARE HOUSED IN TRAILERS FOR SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS OR MILITARY-TYPE ACCOMMODATIONS AT
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TAN SON NHUT.

3. IN PROVINCES VARIETY OF ACCOMMODATIONS EXIST SUCH AS FORMER US QUARTERS, RENTED HOTEL SPACE, AND QUARTERS PROVIDED BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE. SOME OF THESE ARE PRIMITIVE BY WESTERN STANDARDS BUT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AS GOOD AS BETTER THAN MILITARY FIELD QUARTERS.

4. ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES ARE COVERED BY ICCS BUDGET, BUT INITIALLY AND UNTIL ICCS BUDGET APPROVED AND REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS ALL MET, DELEGATION SHOULD BE PREPARED PAY FOR THOSE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS REQUIRED, CLAIMING REIMBURSEMENT LATER.

5. TRANSPORTATION: ICCS HAS A FLEET OF VEHICLES, MOST OF WHICH THEY ACQUIRED FROM US SOURCES. ICCS PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM WORK FOR DELEGATION MEMBERS ASSIGNED SAIGON. VEHICLES ALSO AVAILABLE FOR REPRESENTATION USE. GROUND TRANSPORTATION IN PROVINCES ALSO COVERED BY ICCS VEHICLES. WHILE PRESENT ICCS FLEET INCLUDES NUMBER OF CARS WHICH ARE IN NEED OF REPAIR, BELIEVE ICCS WILL BE ABLE COVER GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF IRANIAN DELEGATION. ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION IS, HOWEVER, ALSO AVAILABLE SAIGON WITH TAXIS AND LEASING ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE SHOULD ICCS NOT BE ABLE TO COVER ALL NEEDS.

6. AIR TRANSPORTATION: WITHIN SOUTH VIET-NAM MOVEMENT ICCS PERSONNEL TO AND FROM SITES OR ON ICCS INVESTIGATIONS OR OTHER BUSINESS IS PROVIDED THROUGH CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ICCS AND AIR AMERICA. ICCS HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH EXTENT OF SERVICE AVAILABLE.

7. IRANIAN DELEGATION SHOULD MAKE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL IN VIET-NAM. SOME DELEGATIONS HAVE USED ORDINARY COMMERCIAL TOURIST FLIGHTS BUT SOME SAVINGS MIGHT RESULT FROM USE OF PRIVATE CHARTER OR CHARTERED USE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT. TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES FOR DELEGATIONS ARRIVING IN VIET-NAM SHOULD BE CAREFULLY ACCOUNTED FOR SINCE THESE COSTS ULTIMATELY TO BE PAID BY ICCS AS REIMBURSEMENT TO DELEGATION.

8. PER DIEM: ICCS HAS AGREED ON PAYMENT \$13 PER DAY TO EACH MEMBER OF DELEGATIONS. IN RECENT MONTHS ICCS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ABLE TO PAY THIS AMOUNT ITSELF PENDING FINAL APPROVAL OF ICCS BUDGET. DELEGATIONS WERE ASKED TO PAY PER DIEM COSTS FOR MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST, CLAIMING REIMBURSEMENT AFTER BUDGET APPROVED AND ICCS RECEIVED FURTHER FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FOUR PARTIES TO PARIS AGREEMENTS. IRANIAN DELEGATION, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE ALERTED TO PRESENT SITUATION IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT DELEGATION MEMBERS RECEIVE PER DIEM PAYMENTS REGULARLY.

9. PER DIEM IS USED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS FOR PAYMENT OF FOOD COSTS EITHER AT ICCS ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB OR ICCS OFFICERS CLUB BOTH OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE TAN SON NHUT AREA IN SAIGON. IN THE PROVINCES SOME CLUB-LIKE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AND SOME TEAMS HAVE ESTABLISHED COMMUNAL KITCHENS, HIRING COOKS TO PREPARE FOOD AND PAYING FOR THIS OUT OF THEIR PER DIEM. PER DIEM IS ALSO INTENDED TO COVER INCIDENTAL COSTS. FYI: CUT IN PER DIEM RATE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AS WAY TO CUT OVER-ALL SIZE OF BUDGET. EMBASSY CONSIDERS \$13 A DAY MORE THAN SUFFICIENT OUTSIDE OF SAIGON AREA. EVEN IN SAIGON IT EXCEED OFFICIAL USG STANDARDS. END FYI.

10. RE MONEY: INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF ADVANCE PARTY SHOULD BE ADVISED TO BRING SUPPLY OF MONEY SUFFICIENT COVER IMMEDIATE NEEDS. WE BELIEVE TRAVELERS CHECKS WOULD BE BEST FORM OF EXCHANGE.

11. OTHER INCIDENTAL POINTS: ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEIR CONTINGENTS COMMUNICATIONS GEAR FOR ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN VIET-NAM AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. THIS ALSO IS REIMBURSABLE EXPENSE THOUGH SOME CHARGES BY DELEGATIONS HERE SEEM SOMEWHAT EXCESSIVE AND MAY BE CURTAILED. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR IRANIAN DELEGATION USE ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK OR TO EXPLORE SEPARATE CONTACT WITH FEC (LOCAL SOUTH VIETNAMESE CHARTERED ITT SUBSIDIARY) TO ESTABLISH NETWORK.

12. DELEGATIONS HAVE ALSO INCLUDED DOCTORS AND MEDICAL ASSISTANTS AS PART OF THEIR DELEGATION. SOME HAVE ESTABLISHED SEPARATE DISPENSARIES. ON OCCASION THEY ALSO HAVE USED SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL IN SAIGON, PAYING COST AND CLAIMING REIMBURSEMENT FROM ICCS.

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13. REIMBURSEMENT: ICCS BUDGET PROCEDURES CALL FOR RECORD KEEPING BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS ON COSTS FOR BRINGING DELEGATION TO SAIGON, PER DIEM EXPENDITURES, ONE-TIME ESTABLISHMENT COSTS, ETC. SINCE BUDGET LEVEL HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY FOUR PARTIES, DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN REIMBURSED TO DATE ONLY FOR PER DIEM EXPENDITURES THROUGH JUNE.

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